

For Immediate Release & Posting

Contact: Barbara Speltz, barb@metroblooms.org, 612-801-9321

Metro Blooms presents...Raingardens and Beyond: Healthy Yards, Clean Water

You can help keep our lakes, rivers and streams clean by the simple changes you make in your yard care choices. This workshop explores the latest in healthy yard care practices, including proper use of fertilizers, disposal and reuse of yard waste, keeping sidewalks ice free and managing runoff onsite. This workshop is designed to move participants quickly from an overview of healthy yard care practices to a completed raingarden design for their property with one-on-one assistance from Metro Blooms landscape designers and Hennepin County Master Gardeners.

Register now. Some locations fill up fast. The \$10-15 workshops will be offered from March through June:

| Date | Day | Time | Location |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| March 25 | Tuesday | 6-9 PM | Bloomington Public Works Training Room |
| March 27 | Thursday | 6-9 PM | Edina Public Works Building |
| April 15 | Tuesday | 6-9 PM | Champlin City Hall |
| April 17 | Thursday | 6-9 PM | St. Louis Park Recreation Center |
| Apr 22 | Tuesday | 6-9 PM | St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, Plymouth |
| April 29 | Tuesday | 6:30-8:00 PM | Columbia Manor Reception Hall - Part A only |
| May 3 | Saturday | 9 -12:30 PM | Kenny Community School (+ Blooms Day Plant Sale!) |
| May 6 | Tuesday | 6-9 PM | Brooklyn Park Community Center |
| May 8 | Thursday | 6-9 PM | Fridley Community Center |
| May 10 | Saturday | 10 AM-1 PM | Longfellow Park Recreation Center |
| May 13 | Tuesday | 6-9 PM | Brooklyn Center Community Center |
| May 22 | Thursday | 6-9 PM | Kenwood Park Community Center |
| May 29 | Thursday | 6-9 PM | Crystal Community Center |
| June 4 | Wednesday | 6-9 PM | Nokomis Park Recreation Center |
| June 28 | Saturday | 1-4 PM | North Regional Library - (Free) |

Whether you are an experienced gardener or have never tried gardening before, these eco-friendly gardening workshops will help you learn how to:

- Capture rainwater on site with raingardens.
- Redirect your downspouts and install a rain barrel.

- *Plan your own garden with one-on-one assistance from landscape designers and Hennepin County Master Gardeners.*
- *Use beautiful native plants in your garden landscape.*
- *Adopt healthy yard care practices for you and for our clean waters.*

Participants are also eligible for a low-cost onsite consultation and raingarden design rendering from a landscape design professional.

“Metro Blooms has been partnering with Twin Cities Metro communities to provide low-cost raingarden workshops since 2005,” said Metro Blooms Executive Director Becky Rice. “In 2013 alone, over 400 workshop attendees installed 140 raingardens. An average-sized residential raingarden captures approximately 400 gallons of runoff every time it rains 1 inch, so each of us can make a substantial impact.”

To register, visit metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426. Or mail payment to Raingarden Workshop Registration, P.O. Box 17099, Minneapolis., MN 55417. Enclose a check, payable to Metro Blooms and be sure to include the workshop location, your name, address, zip code, phone number and email address. Fee: \$10-15 per workshop.

Sponsored in part by the cities of Minneapolis, Edina, Champlin, St. Louis Park, Brooklyn Park, Bloomington, Fridley, Plymouth, Brooklyn Center, Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, Robbinsdale, Dayton, Maple Grove, Rogers and Medina as well as the Rice Creek Watershed District, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Elm Creek Watershed Management Organization, Bassett Creek Watershed District, Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Coon Creek Watershed District and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

Metro Blooms, a non-profit organization, works to strengthen communities by promoting environmentally-sound landscaping that beautifies neighborhoods and protects our environment.

myraingarden.org

